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ACCUSES THREE AS NKVD AGENTS

Three professors, Simon Agopian, Ararad Gharipian, and Ashod Aprahamian have been serving the Cheka and the NKVD as informers and false witnesses during the trials of Armenian intellectuals and scientists which have held from time to time since the early 1930's. Of these three, Ashod Aprahamian is the most important

Prof Ashod Aprahamian In 1929, Professor Aprahamian was a simple peasant priest. In 1933, for the services he had rendered the Cheka, he was made director of the national section of the Historical Museum at Yerevan and was sent to Moscow for study. On his return, he was appointed assistant of the science department of the Yerevan Library. Soon after, as a result of his intrigues, the following officials of the library were arrested: Hovhannes Manouelian, chief of the science department; Senekepin Der Agopian, former director of the library; and Setrag Papghutapian, archaeologist. He was also instrumental in the arrest of numerous other Armenian scientists.

He has carried out many NKVD assignments in the Armenian SSR and abroad. His rapid progress from a peasant priest to full professor, and his freedom to travel abroad, which is a rare privilege he was recently at Lebanon on Echmiadzin business, prove conclusively that he is an NKVD man.

Aprahamian is the author of two books, Echmiadzin and Religion and Religion and Echmiadzin, which are full of falsehoods as far as Armenian religious history is concerned, while they include a great deal of Stalin's ideas on religion. As a reward for this service, Aprahamian was appointed editor of the official organ of Echmiadzin which has become a USSR propaganda organ.

The purposes of Aprahamian's recent visits to various Armenian churches in the Arab countries, in the name of Echmiadzin, are in reality investigation and special service for NKVD.

Prof Simion Agopian: In 1935, Agopian started writing articles in praise of Stalin in Armenian papers. During the same year, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Armenian SSR, he visited the Kremlin with other delegates representing Armenian science and culture. At the time, Stalin conferred a medal on him for his subversive activities and his services to the Cheka.

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On September 1936, he was arrested by the same Cheka, in spite of his protests that he had been decorated by Stalin himself. He spent a year in jail; during that time, he betrayed prominent Armenian men of science, who were either subsequently murdered or are now rotting in Siberia.

As a reward for these services, Agopian was released from prison, has returned to the Armenian SSR, and is continuing his services to the NKVD.

Prof Ararad Gharipian. Gharipian was held in exile for two years, in the 1930's. During that time he testified against such prominent Armenians as Charendz, Axel Pogounian, Totovendz, Chanan, and Professor Khachadourian during their loyalty trials. When he completed his cycle of betrayal, he was considered purified and returned to Yerevan to continue his services to the NKVD.

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